

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

May 17, 2000
MAG Saguaro Room, 3rd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Jim Book, Glendale - Chairman
Brian Latte, Chandler
Bruce Ward, Gilbert
Dale Thompson, Maricopa County
Alan Sanderson, Mesa
Mike Frisbie, Phoenix
Scott Miller, RPTA
Mary Kihl, ASU

* Ellis Perl, Surprise
Jim Decker, Tempe
Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Alan Hansen, FHWA
* Jim Matteson, Phoenix Aviation
Scott Nodes, Peoria
Charles Hydeman, Goodyear
Bob Ciotti, RPTA

* Not present or represented by proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Dennis Mittelstedt, FHWA
Don Dey, TransCore
Sharon Hansen, BRW, Inc.
Sarath Joshua, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Jim Book.

2. Approval of April 19, 2000 Meeting Minutes

The mailed out version of minutes had an error that was corrected in an amended version that was distributed to the committee. The amended version of the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Call to Audience

Chairman made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the ITS Committee. Chairman noted that there was no response from the audience.

4. Program Manager's Report

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_____ Sarath Joshua reported the following:

- ITS America Annual Meeting in Boston: In the keynote speech by Alvin Toffler, the futurist, had commented “that future will see a convergence of technologies”; discussions at the meeting had shown a clear emphasis on Operations and Management at the national level. An email was sent out to the committee with the internet URL for six issue papers on this subject. He identified the need to have clear definitions for terms and the possibility of the next reauthorization bill linking O&M to ITS funding; ITS data bus is expected to be available in most cars by 2002; USDOT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is expected to be released later this month. Alan Hansen indicated that the proposed rules will be out next week. The final program of the ITS America meeting and the CD with presented papers was made available to members.
- Nationwide N1 - All indications before ITS America meeting was that this was a dead issue at FCC. However, at the meeting USDOT announced that discussion with FCC had proceeded very well and that there will be a nationwide N11 soon. USDOT is also planning to make available \$5 million for pilot projects. Tim Wolfe indicated that ADOT is working with John Collins of ITS America to get Arizona recommended as a pilot state for N11. On a related activity, the MAG Management Committee met last week where the PSAP committee had a proposal for local N11 designations. Based on what was learned about the impending national N11, this agenda item was deleted.
- USDOT Appropriations Request for \$ 4.5 m from RPTA - This request had gone out without the committee being fully aware of it. Bob Ciotti mentioned that Scott Miller had mentioned in a past ITS Committee meeting on RPTA's activities in looking for funding in general but not this application. Chairman Book had seen an announcement in the paper on lobbying for funding for buses. Bob Ciotti described what was in the application. Sarath Joshua stated that he heard conflicting messages on this topic from RPTA Consultant Jim Bolger who had made negative comments on ITS at the East Valley Managers meeting.

Dale Thompson asked a question about pursuing ITS Integration funds with news about Arizona Congressmen Pastor and Kyle being more open to such efforts. He suggested that AZTech and the region could benefit from such funds. Chairman Book questioned what types of projects will qualify for this funds. Dale Thompson replied that most of the funding is for Model Deployment type projects though it could be any ITS project.

Bob Ciotti supported the need to pursue discretionary funding. Chairman Book asked Tim Wolfe if he has any interest in pursuing these funds. Tim Wolfe stated that ADOT is working on rural CVO projects. Past ADOT approach has been not to go after earmarked funds. Alan Sanderson asked what the committee wanted to do on this issue. Perhaps MAG should explore the funding opportunities as an ongoing activity. Sarath Joshua stated that once we get to the implementation plan we will have a snapshot of available funding sources. Chairman Book asked if are we missing a

window of opportunity here if we wait for end of the strategic plan. Dale Thompson stated that we have missed the opportunity and should plan ahead for next year. Tim Wolfe said that the Implementation Plan should include how you go about getting at discretionary funding. Chairman Book said that this is a good agenda item to provide updates on. Sarath Joshua stated that last year a proposal was submitted from this region that was not successful. Since what was identified in that proposal is still valid, perhaps a new proposal could be based on that. Brian Latte asked why the previous proposal was not considered for funding. Alan Hansen replied that all the money got earmarked by Congress and none was left for programming by USDOT.

Dale Thompson stated that Congressman Pastor is sponsoring ITS projects and that we may need a task force to flesh out a strategy. Chairman asked if there was any interest among the members. Dale Thompson stated that he had a contract for work on future of AZTech that can be used to generate a proposal. Sarath Joshua pointed out that any such proposal ought to be linked to the strategic plan. Chairman Book requested Dale Thompson to present his proposal as a motion to this committee. Sarath Joshua recommended that any proposal to USDOT incorporate findings from the regional strategic plan. Mary Kihl commented that a proposal would be powerful if it is backed by the strategic plan. Dale Thompson stated that Kimley-Horn is doing this work for the County and will pull material from the Strategic Plan. Brian Latte stated that he did not understand the County's desire to submit a proposal at this time. Perhaps the County could submit a proposal without reference to the strategic plan. Dale Thompson made a motion that a proposal be submitted from AZTech for ITS integration funds. This motion did not go any further due to lack of support for seconding the motion.

- ITS Standards - Members were informed on the ITS standards website and information available there that is relevant to ITS projects.
- Regional ITS Planning - The MAG ITS Committee is charged with the responsibility for doing ITS planning for the MAG region and reporting to TRC, Management committee and finally to Regional Council. Any reference for regional ITS planning by any member agency should only refer to activities that are sanctioned by this committee. This was mentioned because there had been a few recent instances where projects that did not involve the MAG ITS Committee were referred to as being part of "regional ITS planning."
- MAG Schedule for Project Ranking Process: ITS projects were due to MAG by end of September. The process used last year was a combination of the Rating System and subjective ranking. The question is whether we want to keep the rating system. Do we need to consider project cost limits and other factors? Chairman Book indicated that this agenda item was included because last year we had a lot of discussion and converged on a satisfactory solution that was a result of hand massaging of rating system results. Alan Sanderson stated that the process we used last year was an attempt to generate a numerical solution that is not quite possible. The final process was essentially a political process. An alternative he suggested that a scaled down numerical process be used to guide the subjective process. Chairman Book asked if we

still have to go through with congestion and air quality scores. Sarath Joshua responded that last year we had those numbers for most projects but not all. Mr. Book stated that most times we are looking for numerical solutions - political leaders also look for such numbers. He agreed that a combination may work as fine. He also stated that the final list of projects closely reflected the Rating System Score based list with few exceptions. Tim Wolfe stated that ADOT is planning to submit joint projects with the cities. He stated that required forms need to be finalized early. Chairman Book suggested including this topic in next month's agenda. A motion by Alan Sanderson that a scaled down version of the Rating System be developed passed unanimously. Chairman Book requested Alan Sanderson to lead the subcommittee on that effort. Mr. Sanderson agreed.

5. Planning for Freeway Service Patrol Project

Terry Connor of DPS had informed MAG that he was unable to be at the ITS meeting. The development of the scope of work for the project was proceeding. Tim Wolfe said that a current ADOT contract with PB Faradyne was modified to include the services of John O'Laughlin to work on developing the IGA. Sarath Joshua indicated that Terry Conner had indicated the desire of DPS to launch this project by Labor Day but John O'Laughlin had indicated that it could take longer. Tim Wolfe responded that this was discussed yesterday at a meeting between ADOT and DPS and everyone is hopeful and optimistic of having this service launched by Labor Day. Alan Hansen explained why it may take longer to finalize arrangements for some of the features of this service. Brian Latte would like to see this project reported back to the committee. Mr. Wolfe said that on May 25th Governor will have a press conference on safety. Freeway Service Patrol is one of the key projects that she will mention there. Sarath Joshua said that MAG had sent information to Governor's office on the fact that the ITS Committee sponsored this project.

6. ITS Operations and Management

In referring to the six white papers on Transportation Operations and Management that were distributed with the agenda, Sarath Joshua indicated that it may be appropriate for the committee to initiate a dialogue on this topic. Chairman Book suggested that a discussion may be more appropriate at the next meeting, allowing time for members to read and give thought to contents of these papers.

7. Status Reports by Committee Members of ITS Activities

Chuck Hydeman stated that being a newcomer to the committee he was unaware of some issues being discussed and requested a copy of all products of strategic plan project. Sarath Joshua informed him that a project binder will be prepared for Chuck Hydeman. Mr. Hydeman raised another question whether the ITS committee deals with fire preemption systems. Chairman Book responded that it is appropriate. Mr. Hydeman went on to describe the concerns raised by preemption equipment being available for purchase off the internet and the potential liability to agencies. Alan Sanderson said that Channel 10 bought one of

these devices and showed that it did not work. Chuck Hydeman said that the device brought by 3M did work. Brian Latte suggested that Goodyear may benefit from participating in AZTech Traffic Operations Working Groups for east and west valley.

Tim Wolfe asked if DPS been officially appointed to the MAG ITS Committee. Sarath Joshua replied that the letter has not gone out yet and that it will be processed within the next week.

Chairman Book suggested that the topic of Vice Chair be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date

The date for next meeting was announced as 9:00 A.M. on June 21, 2000.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Book adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.